

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

*Please amend the following paragraph on page 5, line 12 as follows:*

According to other aspects of the present invention, the layers include at least one of a long-woven fiber material. The long-woven fiber material may include one of a fiberglass, a carbon-fiber, and an aramid fiber, such as KEVLAR Kevlar. Also, at least one of the layers may include an impact-resistant material, such as a polyurethane plastic. The layer of impact-resistant material suitably may be an outermost layer of the boot. The layer may be transparent, and disposed to at least partially protect a graphical design disposed beneath an outer surface of the layer of impact-resistant material. The graphical design may be sublimated on a non-outward-facing side of the layer.

*Please amend the following paragraph on page 8, line 3 as follows:*

Incorporation of the varying rigidity across different zones 320, 330, 340, and 350 of the upper 310 suitably is accomplished in a variety of ways. In one presently preferred embodiment, layers of one or more thicknesses and/or compositions are cut to size and layered over a form and heated to meld the layers together. The layers can be chosen for their physical properties. Long-woven-fiber materials, such as fiberglass or KEVLAR Kevlar, may be selected for more rigid layers. Further, polyurethane materials may be included to provide impact resistance which may be highly desirable for a hockey skate to protect the wearer from injury.